

R E M A R K S

By this amendment, claim 1 is amended so as more clearly to define applicant's invention in view of the art cited by the examiner. In response to the examiner's indication that claim 12 is drawn to allowable subject matter, claim 19 is added which represents a combination of claims 1, 11 and 12. Reconsideration of applicant's invention as defined in claims 1-12 and 19 is requested.

By the office action of January 16, 2004, the examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Yoshikawa. In Yoshikawa, paint is fed under pressure through paint flow passage 13, accumulated at paint accumulation part 15 and then sent toward frustoconical skirt 13a whereby it spreads out uniformly in an annular form and becomes a thin liquid film in the shape of a cone. This hollow spray cone forms a double spray pattern with a bridge therebetween and is not usable for paper surfacing as the required evenness of coating can not be achieved.

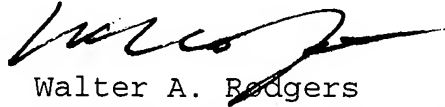
The coating process for paper surfacing requires that the paper coating is accomplished using multiple evenly spaced nozzles each of which delivers a single bell-shaped even spray pattern. The amount of coating must be controlled in a precise manner and the control action should impact only one point at a time.

By this amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to specifically recite that the inner channel is uniform in diameter which results in an even spray pattern and not an annular pattern which is the result of Yoshikawa's conical nozzle. For these reasons, claim 1 is believed allowable.

Dependent claims 2-12 are believed allowable because they define further specific features of applicant's invention.

From the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 and 19 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter A. Rodgers', is written over the typed name.

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